

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
COMMISSION DIRECTIVE**

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER

☐

DATE

May 05, 2021

MOTOR CARRIER MATTER

☐

DOCKET NO.

ND-2021-6-A

UTILITIES MATTER

☒

ORDER NO.

2021-329

**THIS DIRECTIVE SHALL SERVE AS THE COMMISSION'S ORDER ON THIS ISSUE.**

**Order Appointing Representative of Utility Provider to the South Carolina Emergency Rental Assistance Program Advisory Panel and Requesting Collaboration with Other Utility Provider Representatives and a Request for an Allowable Ex Parte Briefing in Three Months from Decision**

**SUBJECT:**

ND-2021-6-A - Act No. 17 of 2021 (H.B. 3770) - A Joint Resolution to Authorize the Use of Federal Funds Disbursed to the State Pursuant to the Federal "Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021" for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program; to Create the South Carolina Emergency Rental Assistance Program and to Provide the Manner in Which the Funds Must Be Distributed; to Provide That Certain Colleges and Universities May Contract with Private Parties to Provide Services Related to Certain Federal Employment Tax Credits; and to Provide That the South Carolina State Housing Financing and Development Authority Shall Take Certain Actions to Ensure That Eligible Households and Landlords are Aware of the Program - Staff Presents for Commission Consideration a Discussion Regarding the Appointment by the Public Service Commission of One (1) Representative from a Utility Provider to Serve on the South Carolina Emergency Rental Assistance Program Advisory Panel as Required by Act No. 17 of 2021.

**COMMISSION ACTION:**

The South Carolina General Assembly recently enacted Act No. 17 to address the use of federal funds for the South Carolina Emergency Rental Assistance Program. Pursuant to this Act, State Housing Financing and Development Authority is charged with the administration of this program and it must use the funds to assist eligible households that are unable to pay rent, utilities and other expenses related to housing due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. That also creates the South Carolina Emergency Rental Assistance Program Advisory Panel to review and monitor the implementation and evaluation of the program and funding. Pursuant to the Act, one representative must come from a utility provider appointed by the Public Service Commission of South Carolina.

Fellow Commissioners, we opened a request for nomination, I believe, last week. We received five nominations. The nominees were:

- Senior VP and General Counsel to the SC Electric Cooperatives, attorney, Christopher R. Koon
- South Carolina Association of Municipal Power Systems nominated Ms. Teresa Lake (CPA & CFO of Greenwood CPW)
- The South Carolina Water Utilities, I think I may have that wrong, it is, South Carolina Water

Utilities of SouthWest Water Company nominated Mr. Michael Cartin (Director of Business Development for SouthWest Water Company) nominated by South Carolina Water Utilities, Inc.

- Dominion Energy South Carolina nominated Ms. Cristina Freeman
- Duke Energy Carolinas and Duke Energy Progress nominated Ms. Nancy Loehr.

Those were the nominees. After review of the nominees and all of us had the opportunity to review the submissions they made on DMS, I move that the Commission find that Senior Vice President and General Counsel, of the South Carolina Electric Cooperatives, attorney, Christopher R. Koon is the best candidate for the job.

Attorney Christopher R. Koon through his work at the South Carolina Electric Cooperatives serves 1.6 million customers in all 46 counties of South Carolina. He has served as the past president of the South Carolina Bar Foundation. In that capacity, he worked to fund a diverse group of organizations that serve South Carolina citizens. Some of them include, Antioch Education Center, Charleston Trident Urban League, Greenville County Human Relations Commission, Richland County Court Appointed Special Advocates, Sister Care and the University of South Carolina School of Law Veterans Legal Clinic. Mr. Koon will be, I believe, a great candidate for this Panel, but I do not want to make light of the other nominees that were presented to us.

I believe all of the candidates nominated have unique qualifications that will help assist customers who are in need. For that reason along with nominating attorney Koon to the Panel, I would ask that attorney Koon work with Ms. Teresa Lake, Mr. Michael Cartin, Ms. Cristina Freeman, and Ms. Nancy Loehr to insure that the Panel has information from all of the forementioned utility providers to make sure that customers who are in need of assistance voices are heard. Obviously, we can only appoint one person to the seat. If we could appoint more, we would. So I want to be clear that attorney Koon is who I recommend that we appoint, but I sincerely request attorney Koon work with the aforementioned applicants, communicate with them what's happening on the Panel so that the applicant's, who are under our jurisdiction, can come back in three months and give an allowable ex parte briefing as to the status of the Program.

This is important because we know that COVID-19 has caused some ratepayers to miss their utility payment and that's an issue we will see at some point because the utility providers have to account for those missed payments. So this Program can help reduce the cost and reduce the burden on the ratepayers for those missed payments, I think we need to make sure that we provide the best candidate for the job and that that candidate work with the other candidates who are also very much so qualified to serve in this area. Vice Chair Belser that is my motion

PRESIDING: Belser

SESSION: Regular

TIME: 11:00 a.m.

	MOTION	YES	NO	OTHER	
BELSER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Present in Hearing Room
CASTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Recused</u>	Present in Hearing Room
ERVIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Voting via Webex
POWERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Present in Hearing Room
THOMAS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Voting via Webex

C. WILLIAMS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Absent</u>	Annual Leave
J. WILLIAMS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Present in Hearing Room

(SEAL)

RECORDED BY: J. Schmieding

